

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney for Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Leffers for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview on July 19, 2004 during which the rejections were discussed, and suggestions made for overcoming the pending rejections.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 14, 17-21, and 23-31 are pending in this application and stand rejected solely on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph). In particular, claim 1 is rejected as being vague with respect to the use of the term "sample profile," claim 14 is rejected as being vague with respect to the "preparing an array" step, claim 21 is rejected as being vague as it is dependent upon a canceled claim, and claim 23 is rejected as being vague with respect to the use of the term "efficient."

Claims 1, 14, 21, and 23 have been amended to obviate these rejections. In particular, Claim 1 is amended to make it clear data defining a sample profile representative of the at least one known organoleptic property of the sample in the database is stored. This data, which generally is previously obtained or historical, is used as a sort of a standard for subsequent correlation purposes. Support for this amendment is present throughout the specification, particularly at page 2, lines 2 – 18 and page 17, lines 10 - 26. The amendments made herein are intended merely to clarify any possible confusion and in no way should be interpreted as narrowing the scope of the claims.

Claim 14 has been amended to make it clear that each probe is directed to *multiple* gene sequences from a plurality of different target species of organisms. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, particularly at page 5, lines 8-32.

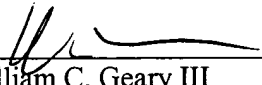
As suggested by the Examiner, claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 14. In addition, as also suggested by the Examiner, the term "output" has been added on line 2 of the claim, before the word "distribution."

Finally, the Examiner agreed during the interview that the §112 rejection of claim 23 would be obviated by the deletion of the term "efficient" on line 2 of the claim. Accordingly, claim 23 has been so amended.

Applicant submits that the claim amendments made herein place the claims in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and overcome all pending rejections. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests early allowance thereof. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant in the event that such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Dated: July 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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